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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05435 122051Z

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TAGS: ETRD EGEN UR US COMECOM

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS PUBLISHES PRELIMINARY REPORT ON
SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE IN 1973

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 05435 122051Z

1. SUMMARY: TOTAL SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE DURING 1973 WAS DOL 41.3 BILLION, AN INCREASE OF SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 20 PERCENT OVER TOTAL TRADE IN 1972, AND 16 PERCENT AFTER ADJUSTMENT MADE FOR PRICE INCREASES IN CAPITALIST COUNTRIES. EXPORTS TOTALED DOL 20.8 BILLION AND IMPORTS DOLS 20.5 BILLION. NEARLY 60 PERCENT OF ALL SOVIET TRADE WAS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, ABOUT 26 PERCENT WITH DEVELOPED CAPITALIST COUNTRIES AND THE REMAINING 15 PERCENT WITH LDCS. AMONG MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS WERE NEOGITATION WITH WESTERN FIRMS OF LARGE, LONG-TERM INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CONTRACTS FOR PROJECTS IN THE USSR, INCREASED TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THE FRG WHICH EXCEEDED ONE BILLION RUBLES FOR EACH COUNTRY, A CONTINUED TREND TOWARD MULTI-LATERAL CEMA COUNTRY INVESTMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY AND RAW MATERIAL RESOURCES ON SOVIET TERRITORY, AND SPECIAL ATTENTION TO INDIA IN THE EXPANSION OF TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE DEVELOPING WORLD. END SUMMARY

2. LONG ARTICLE IN SOVIET ECONOMIC NEWSPAPER "ECONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA" NUMBER 15 RELEASED MOSCOW APRIL 11 GIVES FIRST OFFICIAL REPORT ON OVERALL SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE DURING 1973, AND ALSO STATISTICS AND MAIN TRENDS OF TRADE WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AN DEVELOPED CAPITALIST COUNTRIES DURING THAT YEAR. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW. (ONE RUBLE EQUALS USDOLS 1.32 AS OF APRIL 1, 1974.)

2. WORLDWIDE. TOTAL VOLUME 1973 WAS 31.3 BILLION RUBLES (DOLS 41.3 BILLION), AND INCREASE OF 5.3 BILLION RUBLES OR 20.3 PERCENT OVER 1972 LEVEL. EXPORTS WERE 15.8 BILLION RUBLES (DOLS 20.8 BILLION) AN INCREASE OF 3.1 BILLION RUBLES ROVER 1972, AND IMPORTS WERE 15.5 BILLION RUBLES (DOLS 20.5 BILLION), AN INCREASE OF 2.2 BILLION OVER 1972. SURPLUS 300 MILLION RUBLES.

3. DISCUSSING 20.3 PERCENT INCREASE, ARTICLE NOTES THAT PRICES OF MANY GOODS ON WORLD CAPITALIST MARKETS ROSE SHARPLY IN 1973 AND THAT THIS HAD A DEFINITE IMPACT ON SOVIET TRADE FIGURES. IF CORRECTION IS MADE FOR PRICE INCREASES, ACTUAL PHYSICAL VOLUME OF SOVIET TRADE TURNOVER ROSE BY 16 PERCENT. DURING 1973 USSR MAINTAINED ECONOMIC UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 05435 122051Z

AND TRADE RELATIONS WITH MORE THAN 100 COUNTRIES.

4. BROKEN DOWN BY SECTOR, 58.5 PERCENT (18.3 BILLION RUBLES) OF 1973 SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE WAS WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, OF WHICH 54.0 PERCENT (16.9 BILLION RUBLES) WITH CEMA COUNTRIES; 26.5 PERCENT (8.3 BILLION RUBLES) WITH DEVELOPED CAPITALIST COUNTRIES; 15.0 PERCENT (4.7 BILLION RUBLES) WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

5. DEVELOPED CAPITALIST COUNTRIES. SHARE OF THIS SECTOR IN TOTAL SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE INCREASED FOUR PERCENT OVER SHARE IN 1972. FOR FIRST TIME TRADE WITH TWO DEVELOPED CAPITALIST COUNTRIES, FRG AND USA, EXCEEDED ONE BILLION RUBLES. WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ALONE ACCOUNTED FOR 18 PERCENT OF ALL SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE AND FOR ABOUT 77 PERCENT OF SOVIET TRADE WITH DEVELOPED SECTOR.

6. COMPARATIVE FIGURES (1973 AGAINST 1972) FOR 11 LEADING DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOLLOWS (MILLIONS OF RUBLES);

COUNTRY	1972	1973
FRG	827	1210
USA	538	1161
JAPAN	816	994
FINLAND	602	777
FRANCE	544	722
UNITED KINGDOM	558	715
ITALY	464	614
NETHERLANDS	222	356
BELGIUM	175	354
SWEDEN	189	232
AUSTRLIA	73	198

7. AMONG LEADING DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS IN SOVIET TRADE WITH DEVELOPED SECTOR 1973, ARE LARGE-SCALE, LONG-TERM CONTRACTS WITH WESTERN FIRMS, WITH SPECIFIC MENTION MADE OF APRIL 1973 SOVIET CONTRACT WITH OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM FOR CONSTRUCTION OF MINERAL FERTILIZER COMPLEX VALUED AT ABOUT EIGHT BILLION DOLLARS, AND LONG-TERM CONTRACT WITH WEST GERMAN FIRMS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF KURSK UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 MOSCOW 05435 122051Z

IRON/STEEL COMPLEX. SIMILAR LONG-TERM DEALS CONCLUDED WITH OTHER WESTERN FIRMS.

8. SOCIALIST SECTOR. DEALING FIRST WITH CEMA COUNTRIES "WHICH AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS RANK FIRST IN SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE TURNOVER," ARTICLE NOTES THAT IN 1973 TRADE WITH THIS GROUP ROSE BY NINE PERCENT OVER 1972 LEVEL (16.9 BILLION RUBLES COMARED WITH 15.5 PERCENT I 1972). SPECIFIC SOVIET-CEMA COUNTRY TRADE TURNOVER IN 1973 RANKED AS FOLLOWS (MILLIONS OF RUBLES);

COUNTRY	1972	1973
GDR	3705	3965
POLAND	2803	3000

CZECHOSLOVAKIA	2626	2760
BULGARIA	2345	2555
HUNGARY	1882	2064
ROMANIA	1053	1130
CUBA	822	1110
MONGOLIA	287	338

9. OUTSIDE OF CEMA MEMBERSHIP AREA, TRADE WITH YUGOSLAVIA WAS 671 MILLION RUBLES (UP FROM 569 MILLION IN 1972); WITH NORTH VIETNAM 180 MILLION (117 MILLION IN 1972), WITH NORTH KOREA 357 MILLION RUBLES AND WITH CHINA 201 MILLION RUBLES.

10. CONTINUED SOVIET ASSISTANCE TO CEMA COUNTRIES IN MEETING THEIR ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS IS MENTIONED AS ONE OF MAJOR ASPECTS OF SOVIET-CEMA TRADE IN 1973. MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS FOR EXTRACTION OF OIL, NATURAL GAS, IRON ORE, AND FOR PRODUCTION OF STEEL AND MINERAL FERTILIZER ARE CITED, AND SPECIFIC REFERENCE MADE TO AGREEMENTS IN 1973 BETWEEN USSR AND HUNGARY, GDR, POLAND ROMANIA AND BULGARIA FOR CONSTRUCTION ON SOVIET TERRITORY OF UST-ILIM CELLULOSE COMPLEX AND KIEMBAYEV ASBESTOS COMPLEX.

11. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. LEADING COUNTRIES IN 1973 (TOTAL TRADE IN MILLION OF RUBLES) RANKED AS FOLLOWS:
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PAGE 05 MOSCOW 05435 122051Z

INDIA	589
EGYPT	541
IRAQ	332
IRAN	275
TURKEY	133
SYRIA	119
ALGERIA	117

12. OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MENTIONED AS HAVING IMPORTANT TRADE-ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH USSR IN 1973 ARE AFGHANISTAN, BRAZIL, GHANA GUINEA, LIBYA MALAYSIA, MOROCCO, NIGERIA AND PERU. ARTICLE NOTES IMPORTANCE OF EXTENSIVE USE OF CREDITS IN SOVIET TRADE WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND ALSO SYSTEM OF MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF LABOR. INDIA IS CITED AS AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN USSR AND LDC'S AND AN ENTIRE PARAGRAPH IS DEVOTED TO DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT SOVIET PROJECTS IN THAT COUNTRY.
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